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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, wherein comprising:
  - (a) forming a reaction mixture comprising a crude methyl ester, is formed by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,  
wherein
    - (b) forming a layer containing the crude methyl ester of step (a), and separating the layer from the rest of the reaction mixture,
    - ~~(b)~~ (c) intensively inline mixing the crude methyl ester layer formed obtained in step (a)  
(b) is intensively inline mixed at temperatures between 25 and 60°C with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former, to form an emulsion, and
    - ~~(e)~~ (d) separating an ester layer separated from the emulsion formed in step (b) (c), is subjected and then subjecting the separated ester layer to a thorough water wash and is subsequently dried a subsequent drying.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, ~~ptoluenesulfonic~~ p-toluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed as a strong acid, and ~~EDTA~~ ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid or citric acid are employed as a complex former, if present.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water wash is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.